

# **"DARE TO BE A DANIEL"**

**Enjoy success  
without compromise**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

**The Bible is filled with accounts of many godly men and women who are worthy of us emulating (trying to become like) them.**

**Some examples are Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, Ezra, Nehemiah, Paul, etc.**

## **"DARE TO BE A DANIEL"**

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- 2. One such person is Daniel, a man who acquired pre-eminence and power in his lifetime:**
  - a. He started out pre-eminent among the children of Israel. (Daniel 1: 3-6)**

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**Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility -- young men without any physical defect; handsome; showing aptitude for every kind of learning; well informed; quick to understand and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.**

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**The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from his table. They were to be trained for three years and thereafter they were to enter the king's service.**

**Among these were some from Judah - Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. (Daniel 1:3-6)**

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**b. He gained preeminence among the wise of men of Babylon. (Dan. 1: 17 – 20)**

**God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of language and literature to each of these four young men. Daniel could understand and interpret visions and dreams of all kinds. When the time, set by the king to bring them in came to an end, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.**

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**The king talked with them, and found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom**

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**c. He was given power over all of Babylon.**

**(Daniel 2:48 - 49)**

**Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in-charge of all its wise men. Moreover at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.**



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**Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. (Daniel 5:29)**

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**d. He received similar power over the Medo-Persian Empire. (Daniel 6: 1-3)**

**It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom....**

**With three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king would not suffer loss.**

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**Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. (Daniel 6:1-3)**

**So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (Daniel 6:28)**

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**e. How could Daniel reach the position of power and influence without compromising his position as a godly man?**

**Let us take a close look at the book of Daniel and the secrets that it reveals as to how we too can become successful without selling our souls.**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

**a. A young boy in a strange land, Daniel was immediately faced with a challenge to violate God's law by eating the king's food.**

**Despite his youth and the obvious pressures to conform, Daniel "purposed in his heart" to uphold the law of God, no matter the cost.**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

**But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official's permission not to defile himself this way.  
(Daniel 1:8)**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

**b. Because of his willingness to put God first, He granted Daniel favor in the sight of others.**

**God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel. (Daniel 1:9)**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

**a. God did this is not explained, but it happened in the case of Joseph as well. (Gen 39 : 1-4)**

**Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.**



# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

**The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered. He lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did,**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

**Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and entrusted to his care everything he owned. (Genesis 39:1-4)**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

**The LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. (Genesis 39:21-23)**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

**(Even as a young teenager)**

## **A. Daniel Purposed In His Heart**

- b. By putting God first, God blessed Joseph in such a way that favorably impressed others.**
- c. And by putting God first, God will continue to bless us in such a way that favorably impresses others.**
- d. Let's purpose in our hearts to put God "first".**

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

## **B. Every Child Of God Needs To Be A Person Of Purpose**

- 1. No one respects a "wishy-washy" person, someone with no direction in his/her life**
- 2. Whereas a strong sense of purpose often breeds respect and admiration in and from others**

# I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"

## B. Every Child Of God Needs To Be A Person Of Purpose

3. What should be the "purpose" of the Christian?
  - a. Jesus makes it clear in **Matthew 6:33**, "But seek ye first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"
  - b. To seek the will of God and fulfill it in our lives, no matter the circumstances

# I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"

## B. Every Child Of God Needs To Be A Person Of Purpose

4. As Jesus has promised, this would guarantee God's favor towards us and would in turn likely gain us favor in the eyes of those around us.
5. Will you "Dare To Be A Daniel" and be a person with the purpose like he had? No matter how young one may be, it is never too early to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness!"

# **I. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE"**

## **B. Every Child Of God Needs To Be A Person Of Purpose**

- 6. By putting God first in our lives, He would continue to bless us in such a way that favorably impresses others.**
- 7. Let us purpose in our hearts to put God "first".**
- 8. All through his life, Daniel not only had a strong sense of purpose, but we notice that he was a man of PRINCIPLE as well**



## II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"

### A. He Refused To Compromise On His Convictions

1. As a young man, by refusing to eat the king's meat or drink his wine:

Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official's permission to not defile himself in this way.

(Daniel 1:8)

## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **A. He Refused To Compromise On His Convictions**

- 2. As an old man, by refusing the gifts of Belshazzar.  
(Dan 5:13-17)**

**"So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king asked him, "Are you Daniel, one of the exiles, my father, the king brought from Judah?"**

**I have heard that the spirit of the God is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom.**

**The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what this means, but they could not explain it.**

## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **A. He Refused To Compromise On His Convictions**

**I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom."**

**The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what this means, but they could not explain it. (Daniel 5:13-16)**

## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **A. He Refused To Compromise On His Convictions**

**Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means." (Daniel 5:17)**

## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **A. He Refused To Compromise On His Convictions**

- 3. Under the threat of persecution, by refusing to obey the decree of Darius:**

**Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. (Daniel 6:10)**

## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **B. People Admire Persons Of Principle**

- 1. Outwardly they may ridicule them, but inwardly they wish they had the same intestinal fortitude**
- 2. And when they need someone that can be trusted, and depended upon to carry through with an assigned task, who do you think they will turn to?**

## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **B. People Admire Persons Of Principle**

**3. God also admires individuals who will stand by their principles, and by their words. (Psalms 15: 1-5)**

**LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?**

**He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart**

## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **B. People Admire Persons Of Principle**

**And has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman,**

**Who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts,**

**Who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken. (Psalm 15:1-5)**



## **II. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE"**

### **B. People Admire Persons Of Principle**

- 4. Our society is in great need of people with principle. Those who "Dare To Be A Daniel" and demonstrate by example the value of being led by "principle" rather than by "price", are not only highly valued by God but also by their fellow men.**

### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **A. His Opponents Could Not Find Any Fault**

- 1. He was faultless when it came to management of his business affairs. (Daniel 6:1-4)**

**It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,**

**With three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss**

### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **A. His Opponents Could Not Find Any Fault**

**Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.**

**At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. (Daniel 6:1-4)**

### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **A. His Opponents Could Not Find Any Fault**

- 2. This would help to explain his rise to positions of great responsibility and power**
- 3. Of course, his purity in business affairs was related to...**
  - a. His overall purpose to please God first**
  - b. And the fact that as a man of principle he could be trusted**

### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **B. A Christian Is Also Called To Maintain Purity Of Conduct...**

##### **1. Whether young or old:**

**Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. (I Timothy 4:12)**

### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **B. A Christian Is Also Called To Maintain Purity Of Conduct**

**Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teachings show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (Titus 2:6-8)**

### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **B. A Christian Is Also Called To Maintain Purity Of Conduct**

##### **2. Whether slave or free. (Titus 2:9-10)**

**Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. (Titus 2:9-10)**

### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **B. A Christian Is Also Called To Maintain Purity Of Conduct**

- 3. People who maintain purity in their dealings with others are often given positions of great responsibility and privilege, because they can be trusted to use them wisely**



### **III. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY"**

#### **B. A Christian Is Also Called To Maintain Purity Of Conduct**

**4. Yes, Daniel was a man of purpose, principle, and purity (and how the world needs to be more like him). But the element that likely tied all these together in such a way to receive blessings from God and favor from man is the fact that...**

## **IV. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **A. A Glimpse Of His Prayer Life**

**Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. (Daniel 6:10)**

## **IV. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **A. A Glimpse Of His Prayer Life**

- 1. He knelt in prayer, a demonstration of his humility**
- 2. He prayed three times daily, a demonstration of his continual dependence upon God**
- 3. He gave thanks in the midst of persecution, a demonstration of his gratitude and the fact that he had not lost sight of God's blessings**

## **IV. "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **A. A Glimpse Of His Prayer Life**

- 4. His prayers were a "custom since early days", demonstrating his persistence and faithfulness in his service to God**
- 5. Is it not likely that his "custom" to pray so diligently helped him to remain a man of purpose, principle and purity, despite his rise to power and preeminence over the empire?**

## **IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example....**

- 1. "Let us learn the lesson that the finest of God's servants must maintain regular and fixed prayer habits in order to continue steadfast in devotion to the Lord." (Strauss)**

## **IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example....**

- 2. As Christians, we are to pray often**
  - a. Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess. 5:17-18)**
  - b. Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Col 4:2)**

## **IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example....**

- 3. One of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith is that God wants us to talk to Him about everything that is going on in our lives, even though He already knows everything. So why pray?**

## **IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example**

- 4. If you have ever wrestled with that question, perhaps the thoughts of the 19th-century preacher R A Torrey can help. Some of the reasons that he gave for prayer are here below:**



## **IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example**

- a. Because there is a devil and prayer is a God-appointed way to resist Him. (Eph. 6:12-13, 18)**
- b. Because prayer is God's way for us to obtain what we need from Him. (Luke 11:3-13; James 4:2)**

## **IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example**

- c. Because prayer is the means God has appointed for us to find "grace to help in time of need."  
(Heb. 4:16)**
- d. Because prayer with thanksgiving is God's way for us to obtain freedom from anxiety and to receive His peace. (Phil. 4:6-7)**

## IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"

### B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example

5. Besides these reasons, it's enough to read the command in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, "**Pray without ceasing,**" and realize that God wants us to talk with Him. Yes, He is all-knowing, but He also desires our fellowship. When we seek God's face in prayer, we strengthen our relationship with Him. That's the most important reason to pray.

## **IV "DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER"**

### **B. Christians Would Well To Follow Daniel's Example**

- 6. If our efforts to live purposeful, principled, and pure lives are not what they should be, could an undisciplined "prayer life" be the reason?**
  
- 7. Are we willing to "Dare To Be A Daniel" with regards to prayer?**

# **"DARE TO BE A DANIEL"**

**(Conclusion)**

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- 1. There is a false assumption that to "get ahead" in this world one must conform to the sinful practices of the world.**
- 2. But even today there are many Christians who demonstrate that when one "dares to be a Daniel" they can succeed in the affairs of men without selling their souls to the world**

# **"DARE TO BE A DANIEL"**

**(Conclusion)**

**Enjoy success without compromise**

## **3. How about you?**

**Will you "Dare To Be A Daniel"**

**by becoming a person of:**

- Purpose?**
- Principle?**
- Purity?**
- Prayer?**